

In the Claims

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7. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the critical region of the targeted ribonucleic acid is determined by mutation of regions of the targeted RNA and analysis of the [amino acid sequence derived from] function of the mutated RNA.

REMARKS

The present application is directed to a method and compounds for inhibiting RNA function. Compounds are designed that bind to nucleotides exposed on the surface of the minor groove of the targeted RNA molecules. The presence of the compound within the minor groove inhibits RNA function.

Applicant notes that Claim 7 has been amended to clarify that the critical region of the target RNA is determined by mutating regions of the targeted RNA and analyzing the function of the mutant RNA.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

In the Final Office Action mailed January 26, 1994 in parent application U.S.S.N. 08/129,787, the Examiner maintained the rejection of Claims 1 and 3-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as obvious over Park et al., *Biochemistry*, 28: 2740-2746 (1989) in view of Endo et al., *J. Biol. Chem.*, 265: 2216-2222 (1990) and Badger et al., *J. Mol. Biol.*, 207: 163-174 (1989). Applicant respectfully